

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/982,437

Examiner

FRANK M. LEIVA

Applicant(s)

BRANDSTETTER ET AL.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filling of request for continuing examination and claim amendments filed 15 September 2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13, 23-25, 27 and 29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Peter DungBa Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Phillip Weiss on 27 September 2010.
3. The examiner has amended claims 13, 23-24 and 29 and canceled claim 26 as per phone interview.

Drawings:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: The current drawings as filed, Figs. 1-4, are illegible. Replacement of the drawings is required. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

4. In the claims:
 - 1-12 (Canceled)
 13. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine system comprising:
at least two gaming machines linked together, said gaming machines linked to an interactive sign;
said at least two gaming machines allowing at least two players playing a first regular game on said at least two gaming machines;
a device connected to said gaming machines to direct said at least two players to play a second bonusing game after satisfying a certain operation of the linked gaming machines that triggers a bonusing event from said linked machines;
a first game played on said ~~at least two~~ linked gaming machines;
said [[a]] second bonusing game is a bonusing video game to be played on said
interactive sign;
said interactive sign comprising an LCD screen;

said LCD screen displaying said bonusing video game that players enter in once
[[a]] said bonusing trigger event occurs on the said at least two linked gaming machines
a certain operation of the linked gaming machines is satisfied;

wherein said LCD interactive sign allowing said at least two players playing said
at least two linked gaming machines enter said bonusing game and compete against
each other by playing said bonusing video game on said LCD interactive sign.

14-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of claim 13 further
comprising:

a system for alerting said at least two players a player when they are playing on
said LCD interactive sign.

24. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein a player
operates said bonusing game from any of said gaming machines linked to said LCD
interactive sign.

25. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein said
bonusing game comprises a wheel which has various monetary denominations.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein said
bonusing game comprises a Ferris wheel that unloads coins when one of said
linked gaming machines triggers said bonusing game.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of Claim 13 wherein said at least two players playing said at least two gaming machines linked together enter said bonusing game during the same play of said first game.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANK M. LEIVA whose telephone number is (571)272-2460. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:00AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter D. Vo can be reached on 5712724690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. M. L. /

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

09/30/2010.

/Peter DungBa Vo/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714